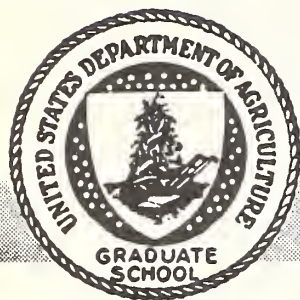


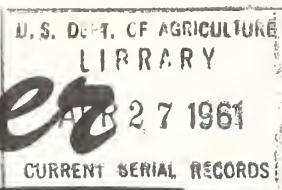
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Newsletter



GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

December 1, 1960

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

December 6	Faculty Luncheon - Plans for AEA Conference in 1961
December 19	Christmas vacation begins
January 3	Classes resume
January 3	Faculty Luncheon - H. M. Henderson will show colored slides of the French Loire Valley

You are cordially invited to visit our offices and see our new furniture and decor. The redecoration, authorized by the Board more than a year ago and in progress for several months, is scheduled to be completed by next week.

One of the most striking changes is in the functional furniture that gives us more use of our office space. In my own office, for instance, it is now possible to seat 14 persons comfortably for Board and committee meetings.

The plans for redecorating took into account the new demands on the Graduate School and the thriftiness of its operations over good years and lean so there were funds available. We worked out our plans with the General Services Administration.

* * *

At our December faculty luncheon, you are invited to help plan the National Adult Education Association Conference which will be held in Washington, November 5-8, 1961. We hope to enlist your help. We do need your good ideas.

* * *



We draw on a rich pool of skills in the physical and chemical sciences in the Washington community and we credit our success to Chairman Henry Stevens and those who work with him in our Department of Physical Sciences.

In the 14 years since Dr. Stevens became associated with the Graduate School, the scope of our work in physical sciences has broadened. We have added programs in meteorology and oceanography and now offer one course in space science. The difficulties of finding laboratory space has led us to concentrate on advanced and refresher courses. Most of these deal with the new information the scientist needs to keep abreast in his field.

Dr. Stevens, who is chief biochemist in the ARS Laboratory for pioneering research on agricultural allergins, came to USDA in 1929 as a research fellow for the Cottonseed Products Association. A native of St. Albans, Vt., Dr. Stevens began his college work at Syracuse University, transferred to the University of Wisconsin, and had partially completed requirements for a doctorate there when he accepted a post at the Rockefeller Institute. In New York he attended Cornell Medical School for a year. He earned his Ph. D. at George Washington University.

Mrs. Stevens, the former Elsie Durward, was a classmate at Wisconsin. Their son, Durward, took his training in animal husbandry at Iowa State. Now on the staff of Oscar Mayer Packing Company in Madison, he is married and has four children. His sister, Joan, holds a degree from the University of Minnesota, and now lives in Rochester, New York, where she is with the Eastman Kodak Company.

* * *

If you've been shopping for toys lately you have probably seen the little kaleidoscopes that are popular with young and old. I was reminded of the endless, fascinating patterns that can be made by the different bits of colored glass as I listened to the aims and experiences of the people who attended our annual faculty workshop.

For instance, in one group of students there were: a young refugee from Hungary whose school records have been lost and who seeks to meet requirements for a library certificate; two mature women who are studying in the Graduate School to qualify themselves for professional jobs after many years of work as clerk-typists; a young boy with a special interest in the theatre making up some of the courses he needs for further work; three top-flight technical men seeking to improve their skills in writing.

The 135 students and faculty who spent the day at the 4-H Center reported on their experience with varying degrees of enthusiasm. All were agreed that the day was particularly fruitful in the opportunities for knowing the people who make up the Graduate School.

* * *

HOW I TEACH



My objectives are two-fold: to encourage the development of the creativeness of my students, and to stimulate their critical thinking. How do you go about translating these abstract concepts into practice?

First, a word about the setting. There is a plan for each meeting of the class, and the plan is followed, but we use a very informal approach. We are on a first name basis with one another. We are interested in the students - in their background, their photographic aspirations, what they are doing currently. There is a great deal of student participation in the class. The students are encouraged to express their views and to differ in their views.

(Photograph by Nancy
Ruth Miller)

Located as we are in Washington, we are blessed with tremendous cultural resources. We draw upon them for our class by visiting museums, by picture-taking outings, and by bringing in outstanding creative photographers as guest lecturers.

The more the student tries out his "seeing eye" by constructive picture analysis and criticism, the more he heightens his perceptiveness. The more he can be stimulated to make pictures and to be purposeful in the making of these pictures, the more he is challenged to be creative. In our class, he gets a great deal of practice in discussing and judging pictures. He has also been given a background of the principal schools of thought about composition, and has been exposed to the work of leading photographic artists. In short, he's had a frame of reference for reaching his personal judgments about pictures and for evaluating his own production. But the real dividend to the students comes through improving his own photography. And the greatest emphasis is always placed on his making more and better pictures.

-Article by Martin H. Miller, APSA, and Teacher, Graduate School, USDA, Course in Creative Photography Through Composition. (APSA--Associate of the Photographic Society of America.) Mr. Miller is National Sales Representative, U. S. Savings Bonds Division, U. S. Treasury Department.

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John Brewster's review of "The Child Buyer" by John Hersey sparked an illuminating discussion at our faculty luncheon in October. We asked Harold Breimyer, Merton Parsons, and James Stockard, school board members in their communities, to bring guests who participated in a panel following the review. And we are indebted to them and their guests: Elaine M. Barnes, director of educational services, Montgomery Co. Public Schools, who came with Dr. Breimyer; Harold Fox, assistant superintendent of instruction and E. Donald Blodgett, superintendent of special education, Fairfax Co.

Public Schools, who came with Dr. Parsons; and Mrs. Jeanette Nygaard, coordinator of elementary education, and George McCune, elementary supervisor of the Arlington Public Schools, who were guests of Mr. Stockard.

There is a copy of "The Child Buyer" in my office if you wish to borrow it.

* * *

Speaking of borrowing books, we have additional copies of "How Adults Learn" by Roby Kidd, and several other materials which we would be pleased to loan. We would like to have you see a bulletin board display of the teaching workshop, "How We Communicate" which includes some pictures taken at the Workshop. This is another invitation to visit our office within the next couple of weeks.

* * *

The Influences of Social, Scientific, and Economic Trends on Government Administration is the title of the Graduate School Press's latest publication. It will be available in about two weeks at \$1.50 per copy. The Graduate School faculty and committee members will be given a 20% discount.

* * *

Those of you who recall the anxiety of your doctoral language examination will understand the gratitude that led two students to write Charles von Luttichau this past month. They were in his class in Reading Scientific German last summer. Each had passed his examination. We liked the accolade from a student now at Purdue who wrote, "On my first attempt, I passed my German examination. I am elated. I have never studied German before and I have always been a poor language student. Thus I must conclude you are a fine teacher."

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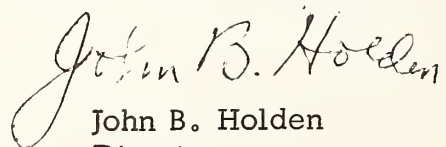
"Sample Design in Business Research" is a new book by W. Edwards Deming, former chairman of our Department of Mathematics and Statistics, now professor of statistics at the New York University Graduate School of Business. The book is published by John Wiley & Sons.

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Two Governors of the Federal Reserve Board are in the reading improvement class.

* * *

Sincerely,


John B. Holden
Director